## EVOLUTION IN GAMBLING. MECHANICAL DEVICES FOR CHEATING

AT CARDS AND THEIR USES.

Tools, Tricks, and Traps-The Bug, the Shiner, and the Parc Box that will Deal Two Cards at a Time-The Mysterious Pricker-Bemand for Cheating Implements.

The business of manufacturing gambling Implements thrives with the general prosperity of the country. In all the large cities, particularly in New York and Chicago, there are establishments whence are scattered throughout the country the implements of the trade. Although the law confiscates these implements when men are caught in the act of using them, there is no law against their manufacture and sale. The goods are therefore made and sold openly. When the police break up a gambling den they take away all the tools. But within twenty-four hours everything can be replaced and the game goes on as before. The mails and the express ears go constantly laden with gambling in. The prices are generally high and vary but little, as the competition is not great except in the commonest articles, such as cards and chips. All the latest improvements in the machanic arts are brought to bear in the manufacture. In short, there is evolution in gambling as well as in every-thing else. A curious feature of the business is that the different processes of cheating are unblushingly advertised and sold. A reporter recently visited a queer establishment of this kind in Nassau street, which has been in full blast for twenty years. The present proprietor has managed the business for seven years, and says he bought it of a well-known actor, whose rapid rise in the dramatic profession caused him to sell out. He is a short, spare man, about 42 years old, with keen black eyes. He not only made no secret of his sale of implements for cheating at various gambling games, but was willing to exhibit and explain them. He said he had often been told by gamblers that he was in-juring the business by exposing the tricks, but he had come to the conclusion that men would gamble, and that each player would somehow think that he could get the best of the game.
"What is the cost of a set of fare tools?"

"First you want a donling box. An honest box, that will pull one card at a time, costs from \$10 to \$15. But if you want a box from which the dealer may pull one or two cards at to \$75. Here is a crooked box. By pressing a spring the dealer may pull two cards. He has previously fixed the pack so that he knows the order. You can never win unless he chooses to permit it. Sometimes he will let you rake down bet after bet for small amounts. Then, when you play high, he touches the spring and your money is gone. Some dealers have two boxes exactly alike. One is level or honest; the other is crooked. I made a crooked box the other day to match one that was brought here, and when my customer came for it he could not pick out the new one. The machinery for these grooked boxes is very delicate, and requires a crocked boxes is very delicate, and requires a first-class mechanic to make it. An expert dealer will pull two cards instead of one, and the closest scrutiny will not detect it. The fare spread or cloth lay out, with all the cards in the pack painted or glued on it, on which the betters lay their money, costs from \$10 to \$16. The case keeper, used to record the cards drawn, costs from \$7 to \$20. Some players object to the use of these as offering a chance to cheat. To protect the players what are called cue cards are made, serving much the same purpose as the case keeper. These cost about \$1 a thousand. Then there is a card press for holding the cards, which costs from \$4 to \$8; a check rack cast, \$2; ivory checks, from \$10 to \$37.50 per 10. Composition checks are soid as low as Composition checks are sold as low as

at game do you think there is the most

sent there is more cheating in draw

This is done without detection, as the marks are seldom counted. The smartmann consists of a strip of steel, which has at one end a little spike that, a stuck into the under side of the table. The spring lars up against the under two cards in there without detection, and take them out at your leisures. This gives you two or tirres more cards from which to make your hand than the other players have. You keep discarding into the bug, and you can soon make any thand you wish. I caught a fellow once bisying abug on me. I never said a word, but went out of the room. When I returned I had changed my ring, and it was not long before I had all the cards pricked. I shall thin an acefull and took four tens. Then he wept, lie when wothing about the pricking game. He got quite excited, and began making romarks.

when he found he could not win a pot with four jacks. After that I went haives with him, and we worked the bug and the ring together. The ring only costs \$1.50." But was not that risky business? Suppose you were caught with these implements?"

if were caught with these implements?
You musta't get caught. A genuine gamble,
es fixed with all his tools. He cheats you in goes fixed with all his tools. He cheats you in so many ways that you cannot possibly conjecture how it is done. You may furnish the cards yourself and deal them yourself, and he will beat you. Why? It is his business. He cannot afford to keep a room and pay for furnishing it and give you a square show. You are trying to get his money. He is trying to get yours. You lose, of course. You ought to know better than to play. Here is another nice tool for concealing cards. It has a good deal of machinery about it.

A COMPLICATED MACHINE. A COMPLICATED MACHINE.

"This is called the vest holder. The plan of it is to rig a contrivance inside of your vest that will put in any number of cards that you place in it, and carry them clear out of sight in your bosom. A string runs down through the leg of your trousers, and is attached to your foot. When you want to take a card out, or put that will pust in any number of cards that you place in it, and carry them clear out of sight in your bosom. A string runs down through the leg of your trousers, and its attached to your foot. When you want to take a card out, or put one or more in this receptacle, you let up the string with your foot, and the holder marches out. At the same instant you conceal the motion by bressing your bands to your breast as you pick up your cards from the table. Thus you pick up your cards from the table. Thus you are enabled to have two or more eards more than your adversary, and can, of course, hold a good hand every time. This tool costs \$15. You have plonty of chances to throw your surplus cards into the pack. Of course you must be careful in secreting cards, whether in your vest, your bug, or any other way, to do it neatly. Some gamblers have a skillful way of putting cards down into tack of the neck. Of course a man has a right to scratch his neck. He can either scratch a card down or scratch it out. Some men have a knack of disposing of surplus cards by kiling them to a distant part of the room with a dexterous flap. It does not look well, however, after a game is ended to see cards iping about the room."

"Is there much demand for these implements for cheating r"
Much; and constantly increasing. I get let-ters all the time from men who say they are out so many hundred dollars. They think they have been cheated, but they can't ten how. They

Yes, but that makes no difference so long as "Yes, but that makes no difference so long as they let you play. I knew a gambler once who went into a nice little party of business men of whom he had been winning \$50 a night for a table. They all knew him, and said Good evening, Doc. 'He said. How are you, boys? Can't you move up and give me a stack of chips? They said, Not this time. Doc., we've made a rule not bet any more lin. 'He says, Allright,' and took a wark around the block, When he me bard he he down six men around that When he got back he found six men around that able. Then he knew they had dropped on him. They evidently suspected him, but could not

when he red back he found six men around that inbie. Then he knew they had dropped on him. They evidently suspected him, but could not tell how he did it. Then he got introduced to men who did not knew him." Suppose a gambler is playing with a let of square players, could not another gambler come in and spoil his game?

"Yes, that is often done. The process is very simple. If I see a skin game going on and I know the ropes and I have the nerve, all I have to do is to rough in and insist upon my half of the skin. Unless the gambler can back me down I get mail the pot. Generally he will prefer to give half rather than lose his own plucking. There are plenty of gamblers who are constantly going about town, passing for business men, who get introduced into clues and private games, and make a handsome stake out of unsuspecting players. Generally when their winnings get suspiciously large they are quietly barred out. Then they must seek new fields and pastures green."

"How about roulette—are there any cheating tools in that?"

CHEATING IN ROULETTE.

"Most verdant youth, ves. Here are two roulette wheels. They look perfectly alike. You may look at them all day and you cannot find any difference between them. Yet I will never let you win a cent on this one, while on the other you have only an even chance. It is a common thing for a man to have one square wheel and one crooked one. He may use the square one for months, and then make a hand-some strike by using the crooked one a week."

"Anything else, you wicked man?"

"I am not wicked! I am merely making it very unprofitable for people generally to gamble. That is really a great moral work. Here is a nies little testotum. I spin it and it drops with a high number up. I give the same testotum to you and you can't hit that number if youspin a year. How is it done? Merely by turning a part of the top a sixteenth of an inch. It is on the principle of loaded dies."

Are loaded dee soid openly?

"Oh, ves. Here they are on my price list: Best ivery exact imintion of common dies." There are nine of them—three sets. One set always throws high numbers, not always sixes, because itm would be detected at one. Another set throws low numbers and the other set is hones. The sets are exactly allke, and one can

Street that would be detected at once. Another throws low numbers, and the other set is nest. The sets are exactly alike, and one can substituted for the other without detection, ere is a great demand for these loaded dice, d they cost about 25 a set."

Any other methods of fixing earls for cheat-

"What is the advantage of marked earls in Doker?"

You can tell every man's hand as it is dealt belove he knows it himself. It he gets a low hand you can chook him him out of his stake at the start. If he gets a high hand, you know when to keep out. But when your time comes to deal, you can give each player whetever earls you pleane. Water me deal this prok. I will give you, while you are watching me, either the second or third eard from the top without detection. If I see a good card on top I slip it down, and keep it for myself, and deal you the next one. Or I can slip that down too if thooke, so that your rehards of getting a good hand is very slim."

Suppose some me else furnishes cards that are not marked. Have you any way of marking them?

Several. Here is a little tool called a poker ring. It is apparently an ordinary diamond ring. Look at it. You see nothing beculiar about it. I have you make our a fresh pass of cards which I have never seen. In ten minutes play it will have all the good earls marked, with my intia pricker. Every time an age or a king comes in my hand I will prick a little shore and sind, 200 checks, tally sheet, ball board, 200 checks tally sheet, ball board, 200 buttos, and 30 inche balls made of the late of the balls made of the cards and of cards when have all the good earls marked, with my him d will prick a little shore.

The well-known gambler who got broken up at large lone in the balls made of cards to be large the covery."

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The well-known gambler who got broken up at large lone of the later who got broken up at large lone of the later of samples of the later of the balls made of the later of t

seel point. Suppose you take out a free's pack of cards which I have never seen. In ten minutes play i will have all the good eards marked with my fitte pricker. Every time an acc or a king comes in my family i mill have all the good eards marked with my fitte pricker. Every time an acc or a king comes in my famil I will prick a little hole in the corner. That throws up a small burn when I deat the cards I can tell with my vyes shut when I come to one of these prickel cards. You may bet your file I will never deal and the motor of the cards are not avoid suspicion. I will brief four dues or frouve and few the cards are not of use, as bungling and easily delected. Another was by which I can read your band is by the pricker life and the ards at various angles. This is merely a little mirror which you fasten to your knee. It is enever and a hour of the particle of the cards at various angles. This is likely to be observed where the cards are not marked. If you shape it is every card in a protty large table, as it is likely to be observed where the cards are not marked. If you shape it is covered in a covered at a protty large table and the price of this beautiful title instrument is only \$1.50. But it is not simpler than the long."

"A bug ?" What is the fonstion of a bug?"

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WITH 15 TONS OF POWDER BATING DINNER IN THE PRESENCE OF A VAST BUT TAME MONSTER,

Boldness, Comfort. and Common Powder Magnitue-How Men Live in the Harbor on Barges Laden with Explosives. "Suppose the boat does blow up," said the

reporter, "Woll," said Capt. Nicholson, casting the brief stub of his cigar into the sea, "supposin' she does, she'll be sent at the end of 30,000 ounds, or thereabouts, of powder and other high explosives, and you 'n' me, bein' aboard, would go clean over Governor's Island, providin' we was almed that way."

This suggestive conversation occurred in a bulkhead on Communipaw flats, a short dis-tance below the ferry house of the New Jersey Central Railroad. The small boat was bound for Capt. Nicholson's barge, which is a powder magazine, and which, in company with three others similar, all belonging to the various powder companies of this city, is anchored several hundred yards off shore. If the fleet were to blow up all at once there would be lost some seventy or eighty tons of explosives, to say nothing of other matters. If Ellis's Island, which is a Government magazine, and which is just about as far beyond the powder fleet as the powder fleet is from the shore, were to blow up at the same time, there would be a bang as great probably as any that has ever been heard, and New York would be without any stored powder south of the Harlem River.

But," continued the Captain, in a perfectly calm way, "my ship sin't agoing for to let herself off as a meteor. You'll take dinner right alongside of fifteen tons of gunpowder, and if you like cabbage, there's no reason why you shouldn't enjoy yourself."

The tide was running out, and the way was obstructed by huge cakes of ice which had come down the Hudson. The beat was urged by two sturdy, serious-faced young fellows in blue shirts, who jumped out upon the ice from time to time and made a channel by forcing the cakes apart. These same cakes floated in large fields, and some of these fields, acting under the influ-ence of the current and the waves, were riding

spoke.

"You see," said the Captain, "how the ice strikes her, ratting her from stem to stern. If there was fulminates aboard or such like matters, which would go off under the blow of a feather, do you suppose that I'd have me? When they shoot off the big gun at Governor's Island, over there, every morning and evening, we're shook up sharp, but you might beat my ship to pieces with trip hammers, and I'd consent to stay alongside for all the danger there'd be of an explosion. Wait till we get on board, and I'll toss some big cartridges around for you and pound up some of our gray sporting powder."

The boat swung up with a bump alongside of the barge, and the reporter was worried as he clambered on board. It was an ordinary large barge, or canal boat. The sunshine lay pleasantly over the tidy deek, and crept under two partially raised hatchways forward. Astern was a cabin and the smoking funnel.

"Do you feel," said the reporter, "quits comfortable when you are lonling around over a stock of explosives that would blow the Palisades into smitherens?"

"Well, now," said the Captain, compassion-niely." Jook at the logic of that! If 100 resunds

fortable when you are loading around over a stock of explosives that would blow the Palisades into smithereens?

Well, now, said the Captain, compassion ntely, look at the logic of that! If 100 pounds of powder was to go off in this here craft, do you suppose that the pieces of you and me would be any bigger than if it was fifteen ton? But I'm goin for to show you that it ain in the nature of things that it should go off till its exploded in the regular and proper manner."

With this Capt, Nicholson led the way to a narrow companionway forward, and disappeared in the recesses of the vessel. The reporter followed, and found himself in a single sort of forecastle, which contained sundry ordinary and useful tools, disposed in a couple of bunks or hung around upon nails. The Captain smote upon a little door at the rear end of this compartment, which sprang open, revealing the long hold of the barge. Piled and sortied in this place was the fitteen tons of infernal stuff which the reporter was sorry he had come to learn about. In point of fast, there was nothing starting in the appearance of the array. There were piece of little kees, constructed of some hard and yellow wood, and hooped tightly with bands of binish steel, and there were platons of white wood boxes neally nailed and stendiled. The sunshine poured in through the hatchways, revealing the remotest corners of the mangaine distinctly. Its rays sipped companionably among the polished kees and danced upon the white wood baxes, it was constructed from right the factories of imagination that the pince seemed grim—but it seemed very grito, indeed, aven't the faintest suspicion that they can

times the turn of an organized active. Here the turn of an organized active the turn of a turn o

the training in various ways for a brief additional time, and threw it back into its original sawdist bad.

The theory of the glucodine cartridge is that it may not be set off except by the application of a sadden and intense heat. It is exploded by a percussion cap like the other forms of altro-glycerine. Its great power is exerted instantly. If expleded in again it would blow the weapon to tragments. Laid upon the surface of a smooth rock and there exploded, it would rend the rock as if the same had been shattered by a single blow from an immense hammer. Four hundred cases of this explosive, each case containing fifty pounds, were stored round about the roporter in Capt. Nicholson's barge, Half as many pounds of ordinary black gunpowder were stored in the yellow wood kegs. There was, besides, a quantity of what is called "gray sporting powler," and when the Captain had, to the reporter's indescribable relief, linished playing football with the terrible cartridge, he caught up a canister of it and lad the way into the forecastle, the door of which he closed after him. From the canister he then poured out a few grains of the gray powder upon one of the steps of the companion ladder, and beat and ground these with the face of a carpenter's hammer until it was made plain that they could not be graited in this manner. He had flually a little train upon the step, and ignited one end of it with a maten, whereupon the train burned up without flashing and deliberately, somewhat after the fashion of the match liself. Having thus proved the forbearance of his explosives under extraordinary banging and ordinary fire, and captain patied the head of head of the door of the little cabin aft two children were playing, and the Captain patied the head of hat she playing, and the Captain patied the head of head of the gray and say of the gray stumps which he left lying about any sail the reporter. "enjoy your different with com-

And its yell, said the reporter, cappy our dinner and smoke your cigar with compet in a powder magnetic?"

There are my children," said the Captain, and my wife, who littell you. If you'll take the aims to ask, that I think considerable of her, is sooking dinner below."

The reporter entered the cabin with his en-

The reporter entered the cabin with his entertainer. A queer intile stove warmed the limited apartment. The Captain's desk, with dies and entry books and bills of lading stood in one corner, and an entire side was taken up by a deep bunk which was made up tidily in land fashion. Beneath the bunk a small opening was cut in the buikhead, and through this, in another catch back of and below the one on deck appeared a woman's comely face wreathed in a fragrant steam arising from a mess of corned beef and cabbage. It was no use; that steam was potent, and in two minutes the reporter was seated at the kitchen table, as heedless of the fifteen-ton monter forward and as determined in the pleusant destruction of a sharp appetite as hearty Capt. Nicholson himself.

A DISCOURSE ON MARGINS.

Reason why Money is Last Enstead of Galued in Wall Street.

"It is an interesting fact," said a well known broker, "that in the great decline of last spring, when operators lost money by the thousands, brokers were making fortunes in com missions and interest. Their clerks did little eise than write notes to customers calling for M. M., more margin, you know. As the market fluctuated, with a heavy downward sag, the speculators bought and sold stock like insane men. The brokers kept as cool as they could, calculating their profits by the hundreds and thousands every hour, for for every hundred shares of stock that was turned over they deducted \$25 from the customer's margin. The moment that the margin of a customer began to run low, one of the partners whispered to a clerk, M. M. Straightway the clerk inscribed the ill-boding letters in a blank in a printed form and sent it by a messenger boy to the customer hanging anxiously over the indicator. The customer was expected to respond instantly with a check or cash. If he had neither, and could not offer collaterals for a loan at a big rate of interest, the partner again whispered to the clerk, a messenger sped to the member of the firm upon the floor of the Board, and the stocks held for the customer were sold out at once, and his account on the books was

"Why. I know of an instance where one of the second generation of Vanderbilts, who was taking a "Iver" in New York Central, unknown to William H., upon a ten per cent, margin, was closed out as promptly as though he was a tenshare gambler in a bucket shop. The broker sent him a polite note—he was lunching in Delmonico's—requesting him to put up more margin. Pshaw! exclaimed the young sprig of watered millions, doath to stir from his well-spread little table. Teil Mr.—that he needs be in a hurry. Fil come around at my leisure. The broker forzot his Sundy-school training when he received this measage. ——. he cried. 'I'd shuff him out it he was Bill himself. A moment afterward the astonished young millionaire got the notification that he had been ignominiously soil out. Those were notimes for trifling. If the brokers hadn't put the screws upon their customers, they know that they might have been hopelessiy involved in a few minutes. I know of one young broker who had never gone through such a period before, and who was made rich nituest as suddenly as though he had discovered a gold mine, who was driven to the verge of insanity. The strain of watching every account in his office and the market as well wore him to a singdow, and, in his siegen and ming the last discovered of the fig-Why, I know of an instance where one of

though he had the books on the ribben of the licker' before him. When the init came, it took months at the seaside and the mountains to save his life, but he could afford to iuxarriate in idleness.

"I kept out of all that bother," the broker added, taking a cigar from a roll of silver paper and lighting it. "Our firm has an ironclad rule for such occasions, and I could trust to my partners to enforce it. It may be pet briefly in these words: "M. M. or N. M., more margin, or no more stock. I sold out all of my private stocks. I always do whenever the market looks like something that no fellah can find out—I recommend it to those who can't afford to buy their stocks and take them out of the street. I conceived a great desire to see Niagara Fails in the embrace of lingering winter and all that sort of thing, you know. I gratified this desire. If a good many other men, particularly small operators, would do the same thing when the street is panicky, they would be richer when the market recovers its tone, but some brokerage firms would not be. There is a particularly strong fascination in the ticker, it seems to me, when, at every throb, it registers startling fluctuations. That fascination is fatal to at least two-thirds of the operators who stand around the ticker and put up small installments of markin as long as they can scrape the money together. The judgment of the best operators that I have ever seen has been put utterly at fault at such times by the excitement and conflicting reports. Markins, by the way, are the rock upon which most operators in Wall street shift. The cause of this is that the average operator puts up too little margin, but in thousands of instances two, three, or five per cent, is next door to gambling. No man ought to liave less than twenty-five per cent, up against his stocks if he wants to make money in Wall street. If he has twenty-five per cent, up against his stocks that small investors ought to hone, the best, rarely vary more than twenty per cent, either of which of security in th stime in the same way. It says any contest in the same work and, if I remember the figures, made \$21,000 in a month or so. Now, it he had not settled down to play that sum for all that it was worth, as we say down here, he would probably be in a position to write magazine articles or poems for fun. That would have been a near margin on, say five hundred shares, or even one thousand. But Mr. Miner handled thousands of shares, and, if I am not mistaken, paid his brokers \$12,000 in commissions before he was sold out. His article was probably intended to be a terrific arraignment of Wall street brokers, but the fact is that he only arraigned himself for the mistake of losing an opportunity to be rich. I know a man who becan here, two years ago, with a good issuitess that Mr. Miller did, and who defin't have Mr. Miller shock at first, either. But he kept within his winnings, and to-day he is worth a cool million. I could hame many men who, equally trudent, are to-day very well off. What would anyloody think of a young tradesman who bought more shock than he could handle out of his first profits, white he was still hable for the stock on hand? You say that more speeple would call him mad? Why, of course they would. Well, that's what we think of those hair-brained operators down here. We let them have their way, though and — Well, we take in their little margins and our commissions until the fun is over, at least for them.

## THE COMING FOOT BACES.

Desires to know.

of operations.

The men who have posted their money for the race beginning on Pob. 28 are Frank II. Hart, John Hughes, John Eauis Goo, Hanawaker, David Scaulon, Joseph Allen, Michael Tyman, F. Krohne, Owen McCarty, T. C. Mulgrew, Thomas Golden, Pierce Ryan, W. Bendigo, R. Larouse, D. Burns, Ben Curran, W. Boulgrew, Thomas Golden, Pierce Ryan, W. Bondigo, R. Larouse, D. Burns, Ben Curran, W. Boulgrew, Thomas Golden, Pierce Ryan, W. Bondigo, R. Larouse, D. Burns, Ben Curran, W. Boulgrey, L. Larouse, D. Burns, Ben Curran, W. Boulgrey, L. Larouse, D. Burns, Ben Curran, R. Larouse, C. Larouse, L. Larouse, L

national contest over seen in America.

Accused of Patally Beating his Wife.

William O'Donnell was committed to the

CLIMBERS AND GROUNDMEN.

HOW THE VAST NETWORK OF THE TEL-EGRAPH IS KEPT IN ORDER.

The Life of a Lipe Man in Unsettled Districts
—Alert and Ready Day and Night with his
Horse, his Spurs, his Pliers, and his Visc. Every one has seen a "line man" walk up a telegraph pole as readily as if he were going up a flight of stairs. With a quick, nervous jerk of the foot he drives the spurs into the wood, and takes a firm hold every time. This dexterity comes from practice. It looks dangerous when a man is near the top of the pole, but that there is really little danger is proved by the fact that accidents very rarely occur. The

men become accustomed to working at a great

height, and mind it no more than sailers on a

ship. An experienced man looks out for rotten

poles and rotten cross beams, and ones confi-

dent of these, he feels no further alarm. He

hangs on by his legs as cleverly as a monkey by its tail, and thus has the free use of his arms The spurs are of steel and consist of a flat bar with a bend, which passes under the instep. A sharp point projects diagonally downward so as to bear a heavy weight from above. The greater the weight the deeper the point sinks, and the wood would have to be very rotten for it to slip. It leaves behind on the pole those queer little holes, which so much resemble the

work of a woodpacker on a tree. The line men are divided into two classes limbers, and groundmen. Thet latter rank

The line men are divided into two classes, climbers, and groundmen. Thet latter rank little higher than ordinary laborers, but in time, if they are ambitious to learn, they graduate into climbers. Climbers are paid from \$40 to \$75 a month, and at present are in great demand owing to the large amount of telegraph construction going on throughout the country. Groundmen dig holes, plant poles, carry wire, and do whatever other labor is necessary.

The climber is provided with a pair of pilers, a hand vise, and a strap. He catches up the broken ends of wire, draws them together with the vise and strap, and splices them with the vise and strap, and splices to servain slack, so as to allow for contraction by coid in winter. In large cities a number of climbers are kept constantly on duty at the central office, so as to be sent out at a moment's notice to repair a break. If a pole falls, prompt action is taken. The fallen portion is chopped into sections and dragged out of the way of traffic. The stump is dug out. If a hole is to be dug, it is bored with a great enth auger, which does its work more neatly and quickly than spades.

There are different ways of raising the poles. If it is a very long poles are becoming common in the city, for the reason that they raise the wires above the great mass of wires that cover the streets with a network of iron. Smaller poles are raised with pikes. A slanting ditch is dug from the surface of the ground to the bottom of the hole. The pole is laid in this, and this raises the upper end from the ground. Eight or ten men with pikes get under it. These pikes are long, smooth poles, with a sharp spike in the end. The men drive the spikes into the under part of the pole, and raise all together. They stand in such a way that the centre of gravity of the pole falls among them, and

nirmly wedged in about it, and it is ready to re-ceive the wires.

The wires used are generally of size No. 8.
For very long circuits Nos. 6 and 4 are used.
The Western Union Telegraph Company has two No. 4 wires running to Chicago. The tels-phone companies use smaller wires, generally No. 12. This accounts for the greater damage done them by a sleet storm such as that of the 21st of January last. done them by a sleet storm such as that of the 21st of January last.

The insulators are of glass, and cost from three to four cents apiece. Very many other devices and various kinds of material—stone, porcelain, rubber, &c.—have been used as insulators, but glass has been found to be the best and chearest. Glass was used in the first telegraph line ever worked, that crected by Morse from Washington to Baltimore. Mr. Morse was at a loss how to insulate his wires, and was advised by a journalist to run them through the necks of soda water bottles. It is said that this was done, and it proved a complete success. Insulators suffer more in the country than in the city. The country boy delights to pelt them with stones, and the wandering sportsman is not above taking a stray shot at them. Breaking the insulator does not necessarily desiroy the circuit. The wire fails on the cross piece, and works nicely except in wet weather, when the rain is likely to establish a connection with the connection with a connecti

the cross piece, and works nicely except in wet weather, when the rain is ligicly to establish a connection with the ground.

Kites are troublesome in the city. A wet string will often interrupt a circuit. Occasionally other things get across the wires. An aggravating case lately happened in Buffaloto the wires of the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company. Several important wires failed to work. A long search resulted in the discovery of a dead on! A wire, with a stone at one end, was attached to the tail of the cat, and the whole was thrown across a tunch of lines. The cat wire, touching the other wires, destroyed the circuits. Interputation by other wires is the great trouble in cities. A broken wire fails on sound wires, and all communication is stepped

so strong that a current will be returned by another wire to the office from which the current started. Sympathy is obviated by grounding the wires at every low poles.

The chief operators of the offices in the large cities have charge of the offices in the large cities have charge of repairs for a wide orient about them. At the American Union office, in this city, the chief operator has control to Philadelphia, to Hartford, and to Albany. At various stations along the lines between these points are test offices. The operators in these are required to be on duty at 7 o'clock every morning. The chief operator in New York at that time calls up Philadelphia. Hecking a response, he tries every wire to Philadelphia. If all work properly it is all light. If a wire falls to work the chief operator calls the test offices until he receives an answer. He thus locates the place of trouble, and then orders out the line men who are in waiting at the test sations on either side, who contours the line until they discover what is wrong. Another method is to call the fest officers, beginning at New York, and cause each to ground its wire, until the point of damage is located.

It is easy to locate a break in the city, where line men are constantly of the lockout, but in the country it is a different thing. Line men, who are necessarily climbers, are engaged by the month, and have each a certain tract of line assigned to their care. If the lines run along a ratiroad a man has control of an average of illy miles. In case of a break ie trayels on a Devices to know.

The podestrians were busy yesterday.

All the entries for the third contest for the original O Leary belt were closed, with the exception of leaving an opening for Rowell, if he earlies have agreed to leave the best (Frank H. Hart), and the stakeholder have agreed to leave had the stakeholder have agreed to leave the barg down until Wednesdry next, if the much-indemand Englishman will walk into their fleid of operations.

The men who have posted their money for the race beginning on Peb. 28 are Frank H. Hart, John Hughes, John Eduis, Goo, Hanawaker, David Scanlon, Joseph Allen, Michael Tyman, F. Krohne, Owen McCarty, T. C. Mulgrew, Thoms Golden, Flerce Ryan, W. Bending, R. Labouse, D. Burins, Ben Curran, W. Boulsering, S. Habouse, D. Burins, Ben Curran, W. Boulse, S.

The State Board of Health has appointed a The State Beard of Health has appointed a committee, consisting of J. Savage Delavan. Erasing Breaks and Dr. Eidea Harry, to inventions unionize a climater's Point and Maria Paris a should be Very. To this end the committee have arranged to take beaumony from all sources, either subsidy of in writing beam first workershay. For 24. They will be at the hall of the New York Assemblion for Improving the Condition of the Peor, 79 Korrty assemble, 24 to be subsidied and Saturday, and or each sourceding Saturday, and or each sourceding Saturday, and the same first. It is requested that any person 1000 forces with information recarding antistics in the facilities of the strength spaces with the same force.

Presentation of Colors.

The arrangements for the presentation of the colors to the Sixty-man Regiment on Wednesday even-ing uest, in Madison Square Garden, have been perfected. Mayor thank has consented to preside. Among the at-tractions are to be a lattainou trill. a find dress parade, and a power of the regiment by Jon. McChellan. The prescutation address is to be addressed by the Hon-ling and the Common. The disclered is to be handsomely decorated for the occasion. MUSIC POR CIRCULATION.

Lithrary in this City which has no Fellow

It is a curious fact that, while the interest in music is continually growing, there should be only one catalogued music circulating library in this country. In Germany almost every music publisher has a library connected with his business, so that establishments of this kind can be found even in small towns. Thus Weimar, a place of about 6,000 inhabitants, supports two large music circulating libraries, They are also frequently met with in France and England. The reason that the establish ment in New York is the only one in this country lies in the fact that playing music at sight is not sufficiently taught here. People who wish to learn a composition buy it; but there is a great deal of good music which they have not time to learn, and with this they should bosome familiar through reading. It is apparent that to people capable of playing at sight a music circulating library offers many advantages. It saves them a continuous expense, and if liberally conducted enables them to obtain a satisfactory number of compositions at the same time. They can also try new composiions and select what they think worth buying. The establishment here is well appointed. It contains now 100,000 numbers, and new publications are constantly added, so that it covers everything for plane sole, plane

It contains now 100,000 numbers, and new publications are constantly added, so that it covers everything for plano solo, plano four and six hands, and two planos or more, duets for planos and violin, trios for plano, violin, and violencello, operas, oratorios, masses, and favorite songs.

The compositions for plano solo are not confined to classical music, but include salon and dancing music. Bash, Handel, Haydn, Mezart, Beathoven, and other classicists, as well as Chopin, Liszt. Raff. Scharwenka, Rubinstein, and Moskowski and their followers are rapresented by all their published compositions for plano and by arrangements of orchestral and chamber music. Among these Bach is most in demand, for the reason that plano teachers consider the study of his works a necessary preparation to the high school of plano playing. Among the composerso fantasies, operatic arrangements, paraphrases of topular melodies, and other safon music are Ascher, Bendel, Beyer, Cramer, Czerny, Dreischok, Gottschalk, Henri Herz, Jungman, Krug, Kullak, Looschborn, Morkel, Oesten, Schulhoff, Spindler, and Wollenhaupt. Bendel. Merkel, and Spindler are the most popular of these. The assortment of dance music includes the works of Gungi, the three Strausses, Faust, Kolor Bola, Waldteufel, and Fairbach. Dances by the two somposers last named are now most asked for. Strauss's music being at present out of fashion. It sliudid be noticed that the library contains arrangements of opera scores for piano solo. The proprietor said in this connection that the demand for Italian opera had failen off remarkably. "Casta Diva," he said, was now asked for only about six times during the year, whereas he could formerly count on fifty copies being disposed of in the same time. On the other hand, Gorman Operas, especially those of Wagner, seem to enjoy increasing popularity. The catalogue for plano duets, piano six handa and two planos or more, contains the same class of music as that for planosolo. There is, however, a difference in the music most lademand, be

is awakened and latent talent brought to the surface.

Oratorios and masses are not much in demand. The library contains only plano scores that is, scores in which the orchestral accompaniment is arranged for plano, so that they are useful principally to these who wish to follow the music during public performances, something which only few enjoy.

The catalogue of songs covers Italian, German, French, English, and American music. Of the Italian songs, those of Campaina, Martel, and Tosti are most popular; the Germans most frequently asked for are Ab, Schubert, Kürken, and Schumann. Masset, Massenet, and Gound Schumann. Masset, Massenet, and Gound Herrer of Campains and Schumann. Masset, Wassenet, and Gound Judley Buck, and S. P. Warren are most in demand.

The truns of subscription to the library in demand.

The terms of subscription to the library are \$12 for one year \$7 for six months, \$4 for three meaths, and \$2 for one month. Yearly subscribers can exchange twolve pieces not over \$10 in value every day; other subscribers have like though more library.

a stately matron who wants Bach's "Well-tempered Clavicherd," or the score of the Mos-

At the Astor, for weeks past, cots have been put in the parlors every night, and strangers have been obliged to sleep in the same room. On Friday night 327 guests sleep in that hetel. The Windsor Hotel, has for weeks been unade to accommodate its regular guests who have not engaged rooms in atvance, Meny railread men and large dealers in iron stop there and, being brought here now by their business, their families have accompanied them to shop. At the Firth Avenue Hetel it was said that the hotel had never done so much business as during the present senson. The house has been full continuously, and there is a great run of politicians. At the Mercapolitan and St. Nicholas Hotels, which are in the heart of business districts, are many buyers of spring goods. They remain only three or four days, but their places are quickly filled by others.

At the smaller houses, which are found all along Broadway, and which depend largely upon regular customers, there are no vacant rooms. There are some indications of a tendency on the part of visitors to go to the uptown hotels, though their business may engage them during the day in the lower part of the city, the cloyated railroads affording them quick travel back and forth. There are about 170 hotels in the city, exclusive of the numerous apartment houses. apartment houses.

When Wah Lee was told to kiss the Rible in fusion Walsh's court in Brooklyn, yestering on swear-ing to a complaint against two men who were proved of robbing his laundry at 752 Palton street, he refused to do o unless he was paul five dollars.

So unless he was paid five deliars.

"Kiss this brook," said the Jinston.

"Lave delia," said the Chinaman. "Want five delia."

He was taid that it was not the custom to pay five deliars for Eissing the Ribbs even to a healthen. When it was mide fear to bour fast he would have to have the bound or westerness as a few he is instable to could likely be to even at the said mide the first the said.

The interiors were Within to the and the health and the serve accorded to the analysis of the first and the serve accorded to the said the analysis, the first and the serve accorded to the said the said the serve accorded to the said the waste to the said the said that the serve accorded to the said the said that the serve accorded to the said the said that the said the said that the said the said the said the said the said the said that the said that the said the

FINE ART FOR THE MILLION

SOME PHASES OF THE POPULAR MANIA FOR PICTURE CARDS.

From Prices—An Immense Trade that has Grown Up Lately—Some Unique Designs.

While sitting in the office of the New York agency of a mineral water establishment a reporter for THE SUN saw first two boys, then a

school girl, and then a young man come in and ask for cards, which were promptly given, "Do you have many such applications?" asked the reporter.
"We have had as many as thirty or fortya

day," was the proprietor's reply. "Our cards are so beautifully illustrated that there is a great demand for them. We have some here that cost \$30 a hundred, but they are large pictures for window show cards. We give away freely cards that cost as high as two and three cents apiece by the thousand,"

"Does it pay you to give such expensive oards?"

"Yes; they are really cheaper than the ordinary plain cards, for this reason: A plain card is looked at and thrown away; a picture card is preserved; so that, wherever one of these cards is stuck up, we have an advertisement out. mania of the day is for picture cards. It is impossible to think of putting a new article on the possible to think of putting a new article on the market without them. You must have large elegraphs for show cards, and give the retail trade pleuty of the smaller cards to distribute. All the stores are giving away picture cards now, and the trade in them is immense. We buy them by the tens of thousands. As you see, the drawing and coloring show artistic work. The proprietor showed a succession of drawers packed with picture cards of all sizes and of innumerable designs. There were pink cherubs, all sorts of animals and landscape scenes, but the arrangements of flowers were most numerous.

innumerable designs. There were tink cherths, all sorts of animals and landscape aconse,
but the arrangements of flowers were most aumerous.

"Everybody loves flowers," said the proprietor. "Flower pictures never set out of
style and are always acceptable to customers."

The reporter called in at a picture card jobbing house. The variety was bewildering.

"It is impossible to supply the demand for
some classes of goods," said the proprietor.

"Look at this horseshoe card. That eard hit
the fancy of the public, and it was impossible to
get enough of them. Eight editions of 300,00
each were gotten out in Berlin, and were taken
up as soon as they were put upon the market,

"The trade is not confined to special seasons. The demand is continuous. It is true
that there is a snecial holiday trade for Christmas and New Year cards, but birthday cards
are always in demand, and the market for fine
cards generally is steady. Card giving is in
great vogue in society. Friends send cards to
each other as presents. Ladies keep card albums. Pictures mounted on thick bevelled
pasteboard and planed in miniature casels
have an immense saic. Schools give cards to
pupils as rewards. Then there is a big trade in
unmounted pictures. Fancy box manufacturers buy them in great quantities. If you look
at the flower pieces in the panels of children's
carriages, like as not, if your eyes are sharp
enough, you will see that they are paper pictures fastened on to the wood and varnished
over so as to look like as if painted on.

"The trade has grown up during the last five
or six years," continued the proprietor, in answer to the reporter's inquiries. "The editions
of cards are so large that the services of the
best artists may be secured and the best materials used, and yet the cost be very moderate.
Berlin, Leipsic, and Munich are the great egatres for picture cards. In France a superior
class of large oleographs are produced, but the
cards and oleographs turned out now have a
genuine artistic value, and are the fores

that it only requires taste for persons of the most humble means to adorn their homes with art.

"Lock at this eleograph," said the proprietor, showing a card of a size suitable for framing and hanging to a wall. It represented a view of Carrickfergus Castle on the coast of Iraland, The blending of the colors and the grain of the canvas were so exactly imitated that the card had all the appearance of an oil painting. There," said he, pointing to a picture on the wall, framed in a deep gold frame, is the original of this picture. Isn't it afine painting! It was bought for \$750 for the purpose of eleograph displication. There are twenty-five different oil colors in the copy, each applied separately, and a process is used which gives to it for 19 cents! Don't you think it is as good at the original?

The reporter thought that the coloring in the copy lacked the softness and discrete in the original.

The proprietor had the so-called original en down and placed the copy alongside If you look closely," said he, "you wit they are exactly the same. In fa-med picture is a copy just like the on-e in your hand, which I had framed ple. When a good eleograph is fram-cept, heavy gold frame, so as to sind

Take Back the Heart that Thou Gavest," and a stately matron who wants Blach's "Veil-tent pered Clavichord," or tay score of the "Mossish,"

The owner of the library says he has readily followed the development of musical taste in this country from the fact that year by year people have come to his establishment for better music. He can remember the time when Cheris was thought too abstruss, and when almost every one asked for the Christic minster medical and Rusself's "Newfoundland Dog" and "Main Track." But when people began to veil Europe in great numbers, and away how thoroughly music was taught there they sent their daughtors shroad to study at the conservatories. From this time the taste improved stability throughout the country, so that now the masterpieces of musical composition are as much had demand as works of interior worth.

THRONGED BITH VISITORS.

The Rush at the Hotels this Season Greater than for Many Years.

There are a great many people in New York just now, aside from the million and a quarter who dwell here. They indicate by the numbers in which they crowd the height shall business is brisk. Often atraveller who arrives at the Astor House late in the evening has to lug his valles from hotel to hotel up Brondway being chefinds accommodation.

At the Astor House late in the evening has to lug his valles from hotel to hotel up Brondway being chefinds accommodation.

At the Astor, for weeks past, cots have been put in the parlors every night, and strangers have been obliged to sleep in the same room. On Friday night \$37 guestaslept in that had. The Windsor Hotel has for weeks been unable to accommodate its regular guess who have not engaged rooms in atvance, Many railroad men and large dealers in rices step here, and the efficiency of the engaged rooms in atvance, Many railroad men and large dealers in rices step here, and a Caristmas tree will rice up with information of

M.4 1 Wha

Grae

Rate.

and a Christmas tree will recardles in the branches. At display a miniature theatre, we stage. Another card shows a l

A NEW MODE OF SHINDLING.

sonating a Health Inspector.

Ever since November last the police have been on the lookout for a swindler whose method is to represent himself as a liewth In spector and to charge a fee for his example tions. On Nov. 5 C. H. Ducker of 21 Pine street was swindled out of \$3 in that way. The news got about among the elerekeeper-

and when a man entered August Windhelm's grocery store, 126 Broome street, and all nounced himself as a Health Inspector, Wish helm sent his boy for a policeman while the heim sent his boy for a patceman while its man was busy on the vineral with its tell giases and tubes. The translated with its tell giases and tubes. The translated with its tell a hierry when Polesenian Language is the red a hierry when Polesenian Language is the red patched and a first part of the patched with a part received what purported to be a language in the patched with a patched to imprire the cause of the arrow minutes in the patched with the hand from the window over of the translate with the hand from the window over of the translate with the hand from the window over of the patched with the hand from the window over the translate with the patched with the hand from the window over the patched with the hand from the patched with the hand with the patched with the hand with the patched with the patc

Paul Boyton Safe.

The ar xiety of the friends of Paul Beyon, the